

Message Text

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17-12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 ACDA-19 AID-20 NEA-10 EA-11 SAB-01

OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/207 W

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R 111505Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1262

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR SW

SUBJ: SWEDISH KING OPENS PARLIAMENT

SUMMARY: FOR FIRST AND LAST TIME KING CARL GUSTAF FORMALLY OPENED 1974 RIKSDAG SESSION JANUARY 11. HIS SPEECH FROM THRONE OUTLINING GOVERNMENT POLICY WAS REMARKABLY BLAND, REFLECTING GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO AVOID PARTISAN CONFLICT, BUT ALSO INDICATING BUDGETARY AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM ENERGY CRISIS. END SUMMARY

1. IN TRADITIONAL IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY KING CARL XVI GUSTAF CONVENED 1974 RIKSDAG JANUARY 11 AT ROYAL PALACE. IF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GOES THROUGH AS SCHEDULED THIS MARKED BOTH FIRST AND LAST TIME KING CARL WILL PERFORM CEREMONY. RIKSDAG WOULD HENCEFORTH BE CONVENED IN ITS OWN CHAMBERS WITH KING AS INVITED GUEST AND HE WOULD NOT GIVE SPEECH FROM THRONE.

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2. KING'S "SPEECH FROM THE THRONE," WHICH OUTLINED GOVERN-

MENT'S PROGRAM WAS REMARKABLE FOR ITS BLAND GENERALITIES. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS HE: A) CALLED MBFR "IMPORTANT"; B) SAID THAT SWEDEN IS LAYING EMPHASIS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL SECURITY AND MILITARY DISARMAMENT AT CSCE; C) SAID SWEDEN WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT UN AND ELSEWHERE; D) SUPPORTED MID-EAST PEACE EFFORTS "BASED ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL"; E) RECOMMENDED "SUBSTANTIAL" INCREASE IN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (SEE SEPTTEL).

3. SWEDISH-U.S. RELATIONS WERE NOT MENTIONED, STATING ONLY THAT "RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN NATIONS ARE GOOD." ON INDOCHINA HE SAID "THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN PARIS A YEAR AGO ON INDOCHINA HAS NOT LED TO LASTING PEACE. SWEDEN APPEALS FOR THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE PEOPLES OF INDOCHINA HAVE OUR SUPPORT AS THEY STRIVE FOR PEACE AND THE LIBERTY TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE."

4. BALANCE OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO A VERY GENERAL SURVEY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROPOSALS, NONE OF WHICH WERE CLEARLY DEFINED OR INDICATED ANY NEW INITIATIVES. HE EMPHASIZED THE UNCERTAINTIES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ENERGY CRISIS. "THE MORE EXACT ORIENTATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY CAN ONLY BE DECIDED WHEN A MORE DEFINITE APPRAISAL CAN BE MADE OF TRENDS IN OIL SUPPLIES AND THEIR EFFECTS. ALL MEASURES ARE NOW CONCENTRATED ON SUSTAINING PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT. ONE OF THE MAIN CURRENT TASK OF ECONOMIC POLICY MUST BE TO COMBAT INFLATION."

5. COPY OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ANNUAL THRONE SPEECHES ARE USUALLY NOT VERY EXCITING, THIS ONE COULD GET PRIZE FOR ITS ROUNDED CONTOURS. IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO COMMENCE THE RIKSDAG BY MAKING WAVES. ALSO, THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE ENERGY CRISIS HAVE CAUSED POSTPONEMENT OF MANY MAJOR ECONOMIC PROPOSALS. ABRASIVE SUBJECTS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SUCH AS CHILE/GREECE/PORTUGAL, WERE AVOIDED, AND THE SECTION ON INDOCHINA IS EVEN-HANDED (WE HAVE COME A GOOD WAY SINCE DECEMBER 1972).

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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30 JUN 2005

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